



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

The Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
26 Federal Plaza, 37th Floor  
New York, New York 10278

MEMO ENDORSED

April 1, 2024

By ECF

The Honorable Sidney H. Stein  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007

Re: *United States v. Robert Menendez, et al.*,  
S4 23 Cr. 490 (SHS)

Dear Judge Stein:

The Government respectfully writes in the above-captioned matter to request that the Court order the defendants to provide particularized notice by April 4, 2024 as to (1) whether, and (2) if so, on what bases, they intend to invoke at trial any affirmative defense, including that set forth in the Foreign Agents Registration Act ("FARA") for "activities not serving predominantly a foreign interest." 22 U.S.C. § 613(d). Although the Government presently expects to reach an agreed-upon schedule for the remaining outstanding pretrial deadlines, the parties have reached an impasse on this one issue. For the reasons set forth below, absent such notice meaningfully in advance of trial, there is a substantial risk of delay or disruption of the trial pending litigation and a ruling regarding the scope of the defense and/or a corresponding waiver of any otherwise-applicable protection under the Speech or Debate Clause. Indeed, absent such notice meaningfully in advance of trial, there may be multiple rounds of litigation and rulings, including during trial. Accordingly, the Government now asks the Court to direct pretrial notice on this specific issue.

I. The Parties' Negotiations to Date Regarding Outstanding Pretrial Deadlines and Disclosures

The parties have conferred extensively regarding outstanding pretrial deadlines and disclosures, including disclosures from the defense, for which there are no ordered deadlines. Those discussions have been productive and have resulted in a significant narrowing of potential disputes. Although the parties have not yet reached a final agreement on all of the outstanding deadlines and related matters, the Government is hopeful that the parties will reach an acceptable compromise to present to the Court this week.

However, separate from *deadlines* for defense disclosures, the parties have reached an impasse regarding the *scope* of defense disclosures. Specifically, the Government has requested that the defendants provide notice of any affirmative defenses that they may seek to invoke at trial, including, as is relevant to the two foreign agent charges, for "activities not serving predominantly

4/1/24  
Response by 5 p.m. tomorrow  
April 2.  
Searched  
Sidney H. Stein  
U.S.D.J.